

City of Takoma Park

**THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE NEIGHBORS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Agenda

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2007
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center,
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

1. Call to Order
2. Review/Adopt Minutes
3. Update on meeting with Campbell
4. Discuss Work Plan for upcoming year
5. Other Items
6. Meeting Dates
 - Set date and time for next meeting (s)
7. Adjourn

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City of Takoma Park

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE NEIGHBORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2007

The City of Takoma Park Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present: Arlene Markowicz, Richard Weil, Morelyn Weisman, Kathy Jentz, Lorraine Pearsall, James Evans, Sally Brucker, Frances Phipps

Members Absent: Bernard Aronson, Stacy Gurian-Sherman, Paul Chrostowski

Staff Present: Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner

Others Present: Joy Austin-Lane, Councilmember

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M..

2. Review/Adopt Minutes

The minutes were unanimously adopted with clarifying revisions that attributed the statement "Lets call this a goal to be achieved where possible." to David Capp and that the Commons was the campus building to be renovated.

3. Update on Meeting with Bill Campbell

Lorraine Pearsall updated the Committee on her December 22 meeting with Bill Campbell, Vice-President of the College. Jim Evans was also present at the meeting. Pearsall reported that the Committee's position was that the long range vision for the College should be addressed in the institution's Master Plan given the impact of increasing campus enrollment and the growing demand for space and additional buildings.

Pearsall noted that Campbell had agreed to look at the feasibility of acquiring additional property including the storage facility and the auto shops on Fenton. Such analysis would include a determination that there is sufficient demand to justify the purchase of the property, the suitability of the buildings/properties for the proposed use, and the costs of the proposed acquisition. Pearsall indicated that Campbell stated he believed the College would be able to

build six story buildings on the residential side of the existing campus to meet enrollment demand. He further explained that if the College were to proceed with the proposal, the acquisition would need to be included in the Facilities Master Plan for the project to be considered for funding by the State.

Subsequently, Pearsall reported that Brad Stewart, Vice-President and Provost, had confirmed that he had been asked to investigate the feasibility of using the storage facility building for classrooms. Pearsall and Evans agreed to follow-up with the College to see which properties were being evaluated, as they understood that the College would also be considering additional properties in Silver Spring along the tracks.

Pearsall noted that during her conversation with Stewart regarding funding for the College, she learned that:

- A. The Germantown Campus is \$40M short of the funding needed for the Science and Biology program this year.
- B. The Takoma Park Campus will not be receiving funding for the design of the Takoma Park Science building.
- C. There was no funding in the State budget for the \$3M interior renovation of the Commons building at the Takoma Park Campus.

Pearsall informed the Committee, following her conversation with Stewart, she had contacted Delegate Sheila Hixon (D-Montgomery County), Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and that during the conversation, Del. Hixon mentioned the possibility of meeting with the College and the Committee sometime in February and March, to review possible expansion sites and to tour the campus.

Staff and Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane advised the Committee that as a body appointed by the Council, the Committee would need to go to the Council prior to any lobbying activity that is not a stated policy of the Council.

The Committee discussed its interest having the Commons project completed and agreed to seek Council support for State funding for the planned renovation to allow for further conversation with Del. Hixon. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to a preliminary outline of a resolution which would be presented to the City Council, with the final draft to be developed later. As proposed, the resolution would address two primary objectives:

- A. To urge the College to investigate the technical and economic feasibility of acquiring three properties along the tracks, including the public storage building, for programmatic, not residential, use.
- B. To express support State funding of the interior renovation of the Commons building.

Motion:

To vote on the general contents of a resolution to be presented to the Takoma Park City Council as stated above.

Action Taken:

Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Relocation of Air Handlers

Following up on the Committee's July meeting with the College regarding the relocation of the air handlers, it was suggested that an amendment to the above approved content of the second part of the proposed resolution be amended to include the following message: "To urge the College to address the air handler location (sightliness) and the noise/vibrations on the Commons Building."

Motion:

To vote to amend the second part of the proposed language of the resolution to include language urging the College to address the placement of the air handlers and noise/vibrations they cause on the Commons building.

Action Taken:

Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discuss Work Plan for Upcoming Year

1. Prepare resolution for Council, meet with Council, meet with Sheila Hixon

Pearsall to draft resolution for Committee to review and comment on.

Blanchard to schedule worksession with the Council

Councilmember Austin-Lane to invite College and Hixon to a meeting for a site visit.

2. Subcommittee to develop guiding principles for items such as landscaping, transportation, height, area, massing, and siting to give the College a sense of what the community will or will not accept prior to the Mandatory Review process.

Phipps to draft initial principles for comment and discussion.

Phipps suggested it may be useful to ask Farroll Hamer, Montgomery County Planning Department Acting Director, or her staff to explain the zoning and development process as it applies to the College. Pearsall commented that it should be emphasized that it is important that the Committee work with the College as a partner.

5. Other Items

Ride-on buses are still idling on New York Avenue (not as many, but some buses still idle there) - Weil will follow-up with David Capp.

Decorative street lights on Fenton Avenue would be nice on a residential street, like New York Avenue - Discussion that East Silver Spring is trying to have them removed due to light pollution concerns, and that they are installed with redevelopment projects according to Silver Spring Commercial Business District street scape standards.

Landscaping: It would be nice if the area by Takoma and New York Avenues were landscaped with a community garden, labyrinth or other more attractive gardening.

East Silver Spring Park Art has not been discussed since the July meeting.

Parking Garage Renovation is "terrific"- nice planting, good cleaning a big improvement etc. The lights on the roof are not great, however.

Question to the College: Would the Committee be able to review the signage for the parking garage as discussed the July meeting?

Fence around the day care center and the trees that were removed - Pearsall will follow-up with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Campus Master Plan - Pearsall reported that B. Stewart would like to update the Committee on the progress of the Campus Master Plan update at the next meeting.

6. Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 20 at the College Campus (location TBA).

7. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Approved

Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner

Richard Weil, Chair